

Latirus martini (Gastropoda: Fasciolariidae), a New Species from Honduras

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ABSTRACT

Latirus martini new species is described from shallow water off Roatan Island, approximately 40 miles north of the Honduras mainland. This new taxon differs from its nearest Caribbean relative, *Latirus angulatus* (Röding, 1798), by its sculpture, coloration, shape, and size. The 13-16 axial ribs on the body whorl constitute roughly twice the number found in other Caribbean members of this genus.

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1985 10 specimens of a new *Latirus* were taken under coral rubble by divers off the north coast of Roatan Island, Honduras. These shells were obtained by Mr. Thomas Honker of Florida, who kindly passed them on to the author. The specimens were all collected alive, the soft parts discarded, and the opercula glued back in place on cotton. For this reason no soft parts were examined, although the operculum is described. Since that time, some additional specimens have been taken from the same locality.

Specimens of the new species are deposited in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP), the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH), and the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM). Additional specimens are retained in the collection of the author.

Family Fasciolariidae Gray, 1853

Subfamily Peristerniinae Tryon, 1880

Genus *Latirus* Montfort, 1810

Type species: *Latirus aurantiacus* Montfort, 1810, by monotypy [= *L. gibbulus* (Gmelin, 1791)].

Latirus martini new species
(figures 1, 2)

Description: Shell heavy, small to medium in size (21.7 mm to 38.4 mm in length), somewhat squat, with spire nearly 1/2 length of shell; profile inflated, with 8-9 whorls; protoconch (figure 2) of 1 1/2 whorl, smooth, bulbous, translucent pale orange-brown in color; aperture oval to

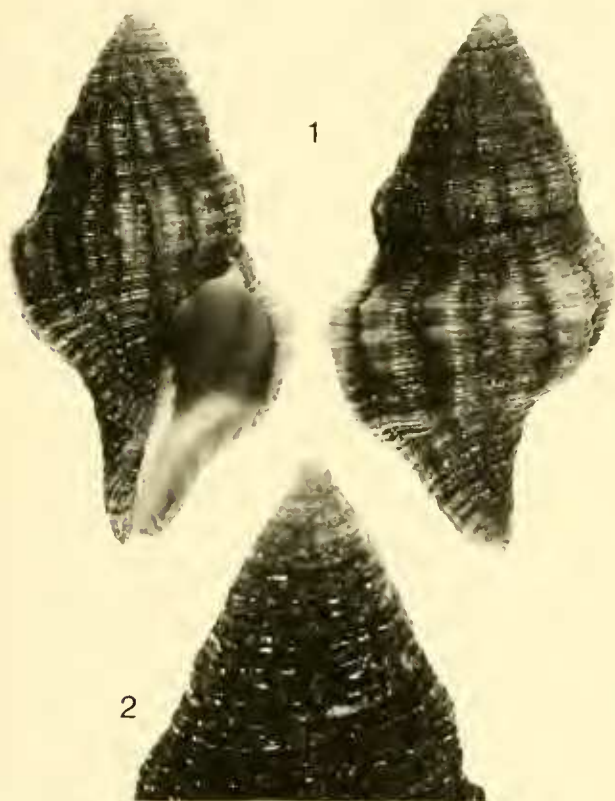
squarish, greater in length than siphonal canal; anal canal weakly developed; axial sculpture of 13-16 prominent ribs, crossed by numerous, pronounced spiral cords with grooves between; cords alternately larger and smaller, first two on body whorl about equal in thickness, forming ridge and deep suture; approximately 45 cords on body whorl running onto anterior end of siphonal canal, 25 cords on the penultimate whorl, with every fifth cord somewhat stronger than others; spiral cords darkish orange-brown turning to dark brown between axial ribs; grooves between cords light caramel brown with yellow cast; shell appears dark orange-brown, with lighter axial ribs; columella with 3-4 distinct plicae (figure 1); teeth translucent, shiny, white; outer lip crenulated, with indentations corresponding to spiral sculpture; smooth portion of inner lip extending approximately to opposing side of the first axial rib, followed anteriorly by 14-16 irregular white lirae on inside of body whorl; operculum yellow-brown in color, chitinous, nearly filling aperture.

Type locality: 15-20 feet, under coral rubble, north coast, Roatan Island, Honduras, summer, 1985.

Type material: Holotype, ANSP 361064 (27.5 mm); paratype 1, DMNH 169442 (23.8 mm); paratype 2, USNM 859070 (26.9 mm); paratypes 3-5 in the author's collection (34.0 mm, 24.8 mm, 23.6 mm). All paratypes from the type locality.

Etymology: The species is named for the author's eldest son.

Disension: This species appears to be most closely related to the highly variable *Latirus angulatus* (Röding, 1798). Several forms of the latter were illustrated by Bullock (1968, 1974). Specimens of *L. angulatus* from the Swan Islands, approximately 120 miles north of Honduras (Bullock, 1968: fig. 5, plate 2), and a specimen from the northern coast of South America (Bullock, 1974: fig. 21) are superficially similar to *L. martini*. The coloration is similar but the shape and sculpture are completely typical of *L. angulatus* and thus readily distinguishable from *L. martini*. *Latirus angulatus* has 7-9 axial ribs, about half the number of *L. martini*. The spiral cords on *L. angulatus* are weaker than those of *L. martini*. The typical coloration is also quite different. In a



Figures 1, 2. *Latirus martini* new species. 1. Holotype, ANSP 361064 2. Early whorls of paratype, DMNH 169442, both from north coast of Roatan Island, Honduras, under coral rubble in 5–7 m.

dark brown specimen of *L. angulatus*, the raised cords and that portion of the whorl near the suture are dark brown, in areas between cords where there is fine ornamentation, the shell is light cocoa-tan to orange-brown.

Generally, *L. angulatus* is a more elongated shell with the spire usually more than half the length of the shell.

Possible confusion could also occur with *Leucozonia nassa* (Gmelin, 1791) which is somewhat similar in profile and coloration. This shell lacks the strong axial sculpture of *L. martini*, and has a thick, black-brown operculum. A characteristic narrow white band at the base, commonly terminating in a small spine on the outer lip, serves to distinguish this species from *L. martini*.

Finally, confusion might arise with the recently-described species *Latirus vermeiji* (Petuch, 1986). *Latirus vermeiji* has less pronounced surface sculpture, is distinctly orangish in color, and has a caramel-orange colored inner lip, whereas the inner lip in *L. martini* is yellowish brown. The roughly even spiral cords in *L. vermeiji* are more pronounced with every other cord being white in color.

LITERATURE CITED

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